

Press-Herald

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A Time To Be Heard

Los Angeles County Assessor Philip E. Watson's comments on the budget making processes across the page today brings up a point that has been expressed here on several occasions—the time to squawk about taxes is during this involved process of setting up the government spending programs . . . not when they send out the bills.

Mr. Watson's observation that groups and individuals flocked to sessions on the County budget while ignoring similar sessions in other taxing agencies is borne out in Torrance where the City Council has just completed a long period of budget studies, most of the time before an all but empty house.

Long-established taxpayers groups and individuals spent days before the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, some of them raising Holy Ned about this or that item of public spending. These same groups were noticeably absent from other hearings which could result in even larger demands on the taxpayer's dollar.

The public reaction to budget making is something like the ducks the Junior Chamber of Commerce used a few years ago in a spirited get-out-the-vote campaign. The ducks paraded under signs that read:

"We don't vote—we just squawk!"

Once more, it's too late. The budgets all went into operation last Thursday.

But, we can almost hear the din now when the tax bill mailing begins late in November. By then, however, the budget year will be almost half gone, the funds will be spent and obligated, and all the yelling in the world won't reduce the taxpayers' debt.

Oh well, wait 'til next year. (We'll bet it doesn't change).

Others Say

Patriotism's Price

They were men of means and well educated—yet they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well the price they'd pay. What happened to them?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died. Twenty had their homes ransacked and burned. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or the hardship of the war.

Carter Braxton, a wealthy trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British navy. He sold his home to pay his debts and died bankrupt.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family constantly and to keep in hiding. His possessions were taken and he was reduced to poverty.

British soldiers or vandals looted the properties of William Ellery, George Clymer, Syman Hall, George Walton, Button Gwinnett, Thomas Heyward, Edward Rutledge and Arthur Middleton.

At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. Nelson urged General Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and property destroyed. The British jailed his wife and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. There 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and grist mill were destroyed. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home after the war to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion.

Robert Morris and Phillip Livingston suffered similar fates. Such are the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These men HAD security, but they valued liberty more.—*Sunday News*

The Supreme Court rules that a shaving cream commercial showing how to shave a piece of sandpaper was deceitful. This leaves us up in the air as to exactly how we are supposed to shave our sandpaper.—*Findlay (Ohio) Republican Courier*.

MAY IT RING FOREVER!



AFTER THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE WAS WON, THE GENERAL WHO LED US REFUSED TO BECOME DICTATOR!



ROYCE BRIER

Life in a Mirror World May Be the Best Answer

Looking about, you must conclude nobody is satisfied. University of California folk, civil rights workers, television viewers, Arabs, Bolivians all say the world is in a hell of a shape, and who can deny them?

If you're aged twenty, you say the world couldn't be in worse shape, and you're right. This dolorous state was noted by the young in 1665, 1265 and so on, and always with reason. Gauguin didn't like Paris, and when he took off he didn't like Tahiti.

But you have something Gauguin never had, hope. The way things are going, you can emigrate to another planet in a few decades and set up a rational society. You can have unoppressive education, everybody will be truly equal, and the price of tin and the wages for mining it will be absurdly high.

Just how another planet will provide the setting for this improvement is not clear. Of itself, the planet earth seems pleasantly habitable; it's the people who ruin it. So—

Anyway, thanks to our technology, you begin to see daylight. Wouldn't it be a kick if the thing we say is destroying us turned out to liberate us all?

But let's not be primitive about it. You think it would be nice on Mars? Don't be square. How would you like to join the antipeople, an anticontinent for everybody? Listen carefully.

Some years ago the physicists, digging the subatomic depths, discovered what they believe to be antiparticles, a sort of mirror of the common old particles we know so well. The nucleus of a hydrogen atom is called a proton, and you see it everywhere you go. Much rarer is the nucleus of heavy hydrogen called a deuteron, which is one proton and one neutron held by nuclear cement. So in fooling around with their smashing machines, they hit the craziest jackpot. They had already discovered the antiproton and the antineutron and now learned they could be compounded into an antideuteron, and this was antimatter in a form

more complex than hitherto conceived.

It suggested to some physicists that antimatter must exist, not in isolated particles but in large aggregates. And by golly, this suggested there might be antimatter galaxies, stars, and planets, so why not antipeople to inhabit this shining mirror of our drab universe? Besides, radio astronomers, getting signals from unbelievably remote sources, were getting some mighty odd ones that didn't fit in.

Brothers, that's it! What's so bad about an antimatter galaxy? Don't knock it until you've tried it. True, the physicists say that when matter meets antimatter, they annihilate each other. But shucks, we'll get around that!

We have to get around it. You may have trouble imagining life in a mirror, but Alice thrived on it. The flowers talked to you, the White Queen was fascinating, and Humpty Dumpty made as much sense as any of our leaders in this weary old world since the first Pharaoh.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Emerging Authors Rated With Early Performances

A Boston immigrant neighborhood during the early years of the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration is the grim setting of a first novel by a lady who signs herself "Sara." She is actually Mrs. Sally Blake, a former Boston and San Francisco newspaperwoman. A short story by "Sara," which appeared originally in *Commentary* was reprinted in the 1964 "O'Henry Collection of Best Short Stories." This debut as a novelist shows definite evidence of an emerging literary talent.

The title is oddly poetic, "Where Mist Clothes Dream and Song Runs Naked" (McGraw-Hill; \$4.60). The prose is equally poetic, and stylized, as "Sara" narrates a tale of frustration in a Jewish family which is blighted both by poverty and misunderstanding. For all its craftsmanship, I found it a depressing story; certainly an exercise in literary art rather than commerce, and a book that leaves one with a heavy heart.

"Sara" focuses on the Stoler family, and especially a sub-teen-age daughter,

Libby, who may remind you of Frankie, the 13-year-old girl of Carson McCullers' "The Member of the Wedding." An older and a younger brother are much a part of this family saga, which bears down on a sharp clash between the generations. Sex, pregnancy, poignancy. The author seems to say, with a sigh, that this is how it was in the streets of one old neighborhood a generation ago, "like a song running naked."

This is an honest creative effort marked by some strong scenes. But as a styl-

Strength for These Days (From The Bible)

Be not dismayed—(Isa. 41:10)

Be not dismayed by sickness or ill health; God will heal. Do not believe anything is impossible or incurable with God. Set your faith to work, bring life and power to your prayers by believing in life. Overcome your fearful concern with your fervent faith God can be trusted. God will heal!

Taxpayers Watch County's Budgeting, Ignore Others

By PHILIP E. WATSON
County Assessor
Seldom have County budget-making sessions received so much public scrutiny or been subjected to so much "economy" pressure as those just concluded.

Almost six full days were spent in public hearings before the Supervisors themselves got down to the work of paring and voting.

In addition to those representatives of the long-established taxpayers groups like the California Taxpayers Association and the Property Owners Tax Association, who regularly offer detailed analyses at these hearings, there were several hundred new faces at the sessions this year. And many of them exercised their Constitutional right to be heard.

This was a healthy manifestation of how local government should function. Citizens have a responsibility to let their legislators know what they want. In this instance, the Supervisors were as economy-minded as any of the speakers. But the habit of participation in government is a good one, and I'm always pleased at any indication that more people are taking on this responsibility.

However, at the same time that the County budget was in the spotlight at the Hall of Administration, other taxing agencies were working on other budgets which were also going to affect our tax bills.

Just down the street, for example, at City Hall, the Los Angeles city budget was under consideration. The city taxes make up almost as large a share of Los Angeles property owners' tax bills as do the County taxes—just about one-fourth.

Yet the city budget hearings attracted almost no watchful spectators.

Also, school budgets are now being prepared throughout the County. As a rule, school taxes amount to approximately half our entire property tax bill. Yet those budget hearings, all of them open to the public, are attracting almost no attendance from the average taxpayer.

So what has happened now at budget time is exactly what happened during the taxpayer protests last fall—all the "economy" clamor has been directed at the County, despite the fact that its budget can only affect about one-fourth of our tax bill.

Speaking of economy and budgets, I'd like to do a little pointing with pride at our own Department budget for the coming year.

Several months ago, I announced that our budget request for the new year was down more than \$100,000 from the current year. This was a saving we had been able to accomplish within the existing organizational structure of the Department. This organization structure was an intermediate step between the organization that had existed when I took office and the one to which we were advancing.

A week ago the Board of Supervisors approved our new organization plan, and with it a revised budget request that will result in additional savings, so that our anticipated needs for the coming year are now down \$250,000 from the current year.

This quarter-million-dollar reduction in operating cost has been accomplished, despite an increasing workload, by a more efficient use of our staff and by streamlining processes and functions. I'm frank to ad-

mit we borrowed many of the ideas for this new organization structure from private industry. I think government is in an admirable position to take advantage of the lessons learned by industry and can usefully employ many of its techniques.

At the same time that the new organization gives us more efficiency and strengthens our lines of communication, authority and responsibility, it also provides us with new flexibility in opening up greater opportunities for promotion within the department.

Just this week, for example, a group of six long-time employees whose promotional possibilities would otherwise have been limited

at or near their present level, began a two-year appraisal training program that, when successfully completed, will qualify them as full-fledged real estate appraisers.

We anticipate that we will require no further budget increases (except for any salary increases authorized by the Board) for the next three years. It is our hope that we can, in fact, make additional cuts as the new organization shifts into top gear.

When one realizes that total tax collections for all the agencies in Los Angeles County amount to almost \$1.2 billion, a saving of \$250,000 may not sound like much. But we're operating on the theory that every \$250,000 counts.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Here's Scoop Of the Day

SCOOPS DU JOUR: May I be the first to tell you that Kim Novak and her new husband, Actor Richard Johnson, are expecting a baby? The crowd at El Matador in Carmel, one of their hangouts, is spreading the happy word . . . That saucy, left-winged, dirty-talking magazine, *The Realist*, warns its readers via printed notices: "If you don't renew your subscription, we'll tell the FBI you did!" . . . Jazz Pianist Joe Bushkin has moved out of Belvedere and settled down in Honolulu "where the weather is better (and so long, buddy) . . . On the rocks after only a year: The marriage of Frank Granat and Judy Foster. He's the ex-S. F. jewelry heir who has hit it big as a Broadway producer ("Dylan," "Any Wednesday," "Ben Franklin in Paris") . . . The romantic adventures of Matthew Kelly and Screenstar Arlene Dahl have reached the international plateau: the *London Evening News* has 'em about to get married—"a story," snaps Matthew, "made out of whole cloth." In other words, pure cashmere.

CONFIDENTIAL memo to "Partners & Account Executives" from the front office of Davis, Skaggs & Co., the stockbrokers: "The strong possibility of an escalation of hostilities in Viet Nam along with the considerable sabre rattling which occurs almost daily between East and West has directed attention to the shares of the major aerospace companies. It is our feeling that investor attention to these issues will support an environment in which handsome capital gains can be realized in the months ahead." Unless something awful happens, of course.

NEXT TIME YOU drop in at Shirley Temple Black's house, take a second look at that big polar bear rug. It once adorned the parlor in the late Madam Mabel Malotte's house of joy (Shirley bought it at auction) so don't say anything silly, like: "Now where have I seen that before?" . . . Girl back from her very first visit to L.A., describing the experience over a healing martini at Nick's Place: "Gad, the minute you step out of the house you're in the biggest open air insane asylum in the world!" . . . Movie immortal Pola Negri, holed up at the Sheraton-Palace to write her memoirs, is working like a beaver, all right. Or even a Pola bear. Her first week here, she ventured out of her suite only once—to go to Liz Arden's for a hair wash and body massage (all the facts, however personal).

LITERARY INSIDEM: Horace Cayton, the noted Negro educator, has written of his experiences in a new book titled "Long Old Road," which the critics have unanimously saluted as "shattering," "sensitive" and "frank." In the latter category falls the following statement: "Yes, I hate white people. Not all white people, of course—some I like—but the idea of white people in general." Among those he likes, presumably, is Mortimer Fleishacker Jr., the philanthropist, who financed Cayton for a year so he'd have time to write "Long Old Road."

PACIFIC TELL & TELL: Tarita, the beautiful Tahitian dancer who co-flopped with Brando in "Mutiny," arrived here for her opening at Bob Fraser's Bora Bora—and was immediately whisked by publicist Bill Brown to Channel 7, for an interview with Gypsy Rose Lee. At the studio, consternation! Tarita speaks no English, Gypsy speaks no French. Interview scrubbed. Brown red. Tarita brown. Gypsy Rose and slowly walked away . . . Orlando Cepeda, the Giants' \$53,000-a-year question mark, has bought a new white, air-conditioned Impala for his wife Annie. Air-conditioned? He still doesn't know about our summers? . . . Quote from Artist William Grant Sherry, Bette Davis' ex-husband, who now lives here: "Every time I drive across the bridge toward San Francisco, I feel like a kid on his way to the circus." With luck, we may even be able to keep it that way.

Morning Report:

(Abe Mellinkoff is on vacation. His Morning Report feature will be resumed on his return.)

Abe Mellinkoff

Quote

About the only similarity between the modern dairy farm and those of a generation ago is that the milk still comes from cows.—Alexander Moore, California chairman of National Dairy Month.

The strength you acquire through confidence can be lost rapidly through conceit.—Cliff Memmott, Uintah Basin (Utah) Standard.